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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

ACTION TAKEN ON DECISIONS OF THE
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides, in summary form, information on the follow-up by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on all decisions/conclusions of the forty-fifth session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme that called for specific action to be taken by the High Commissioner. The section headings and paragraphs referred to in chapter II below correspond to those contained in report of the forty-fifth session of the Executive Committee (A/AC.96/839). Decisions/conclusions requiring action by Governments or other entities, rather than the High Commissioner, are not reported on. To the maximum extent, cross-references to other Executive Committee and Sub-Committee documents/reports are made to limit the length of this document.

II. ACTION TAKEN

Para. 19: General Conclusion on International Protection

(m) Recalls that UNHCR has often been requested by the United Nations General Assembly to extend protection and assistance to persons who have been forced to seek refuge outside their countries of origin as a result of situations of conflict, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue to provide international protection to such persons, and to seek solutions to the problems arising from their forced displacement, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and calls upon all States to assist and support the High Commissioner's efforts in this regard;

(q) Encourages the High Commissioner to continue to promote international cooperation in providing international protection to all who require it, and to engage in further consultations and discussions concerning measures to achieve this objective, which might involve the elaboration of guiding principles, including for concerted action;

(s) Welcomes the further exploration by the High Commissioner, pursuant to Protection Conclusion (m) (1993), of temporary protection as an asylum strategy, in the context of addressing prevention, protection and solutions on a comprehensive regional basis, and looks forward to further discussions among interested Governments on this subject, including the duration of temporary protection;

(u) Calls upon UNHCR, in close cooperation with the Governments concerned, to continue to coordinate and to provide guidance concerning the implementation of temporary protection and other forms of asylum oriented towards repatriation, in situations where return home is considered the most appropriate durable solution, including advice on voluntary repatriation and on safe return once the need for international protection has ceased;

UNHCR Action. See: The Scope of International Protection in Mass Influx (EC/1995/SCP/CRP.3 and Corr.1 and 2) presented at the June 1995 meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection (SCIP); and the Note on International Protection: International Protection in Mass Influx (A/AC.96/850) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee.

(v) Reiterates that voluntary repatriation, when it is feasible, is the ideal solution to refugee problems, and calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, UNHCR and the international community as a whole to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise freely their right to return home in safety and dignity;

UNHCR Action. UNHCR has continued its efforts to promote voluntary repatriation in conditions of safety and dignity. At the 4 April 1995 meeting of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters (SCAF), the Sub-Committee had before it a document entitled: Update on Voluntary Repatriation Movements (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.12). This document set out the progress achieved in 1994, and the planning assumptions and constraints for 1995. UNHCR end of year statistics for 1994, show that some 2.03 million refugees voluntarily repatriated in the course of the year, 1.4 million of them being assisted by UNHCR. In 1994, the Office provided reintegration assistance to 2.9 million returnees, including a number who had returned in previous years. Major voluntary repatriations continued to take place during 1995. For instance, between January and August, some 170,000 Rwandan refugees returned (excluding 13,000 who were expelled from Zaire in August) as did some 161,000 Mozambicans and some 160,000 Afghans. In addition, some 60,000 refugees from Myanmar, who had found asylum in Bangladesh, were assisted to return during January-July 1995. Further details of UNHCR activities in the various regions, notably in respect of the pursuit of solutions, are summarized in Part II of

document A/AC.96/845 (Overview of UNHCR Activities) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee as well as in the final fascicles of Parts I, II and V of document A/AC.96/846 (UNHCR Activities Financed by Voluntary Funds), which deal with regional special programmes.

(z) Acknowledges the usefulness, in appropriate circumstances, of visits by representatives of the countries of origin to refugee camps in countries of asylum within the framework of information campaigns to promote voluntary repatriation, and requests UNHCR, in cooperation with the countries of asylum concerned, to facilitate such visits;

UNHCR Action.

Africa: In June 1995, Malian officials, including the Head of State, visited countries hosting Malian refugees to inform the refugees of conditions in Mali and to encourage their voluntary repatriation. In December 1994 and March 1995, Sudanese officials visited Sudanese refugee camps in the Central African Republic to promote voluntary repatriation. Angolan officials visited Angolan refugees in Congo in September 1995, and used a tripartite meeting for the repatriation of Angolan refugees (Lusaka, 18 to 20 July 1995) to visit the Maheba settlement for Angolan refugees. In June 1995, the Prime Ministers of Rwanda and Burundi visited the Magara camp in Burundi, and in August 1995 the Tripartite Committee visited seven camps.

Asia and Oceania: Regular visits during 1995 to Ban Napho camp in Thailand by officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of the Lao People's Democratic Republic have taken place. They have familiarized the potential returnee caseload with conditions in the country of origin. In October 1994, a female Vietnamese Ministry of Interior Official visited the Sungei Besi camp in Malaysia to promote voluntary repatriation among single women.

Latin America: As part of tripartite commission (Guatemala - Mexico - UNHCR) activities are periodic exchanges of visit of governmental authorities of the two countries, which have facilitated the finalization of arrangements for voluntary repatriation of Guatemalans to specific locations under UNHCR auspices. Arrangements are also supported for representatives of the different refugee groups to make on-the-spot visits in their villages of destination.

(ee) Notes with concern the persistent problems of stateless persons in various regions and the emergence of new situations of statelessness, and, acknowledging the responsibilities already entrusted to the High Commissioner by the United Nations General Assembly with respect to the prevention of statelessness (General Assembly resolution 3274 (XXIX)), calls upon UNHCR to strengthen its efforts in this domain, including promoting accessions to the Convention relating to the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, training for UNHCR staff and government officials, and a systematic gathering of information on the dimension of the problem, and to keep the Executive Committee informed of these activities;

UNHCR Action. See: Note on UNHCR and Stateless Persons (EC/1995/SCP/CRP.2 and Corr.1) presented to the June 1995 meeting of SCIP; and Current UNHCR Activities on Behalf of Stateless Persons submitted to the October 1995 meeting of the same Sub-Committee (EC/1995/SCP/CRP.6). Together, these papers describe the background to UNHCR's activities in the field of statelessness and its current activities on behalf of stateless people.

(ff) Calls on the High Commissioner to ensure UNHCR's active participation in the 1995 World Conference on Women and its Regional Preparatory Conferences in order that the situation of refugee women remain high on the international agenda of women's issues;

UNHCR Action. See: Refugee Women: the Achievements and the Challenges (EC/SC.2/77), submitted to October 1995 SCAF, which reports on UNHCR participation at the Beijing Conference.

(gg) Urges UNHCR, in cooperation with Governments, other United Nations and international and non-governmental organizations, especially UNICEF and ICRC, to continue its efforts to give special attention to the needs of refugee children, ensuring, in particular, that arrangements are made for their immediate and long-term care, including health, nutrition and education, and, in the case of children who are separated from their families, for prompt registration, tracing and family reunion;

UNHCR Action. See: Implementation of UNHCR's Policy and Guidelines on Refugee Children (EC/SC.2/78) submitted to the October 1995 meeting of SCAF. The Secretary-General will also issue a report, prepared by UNHCR, to the 50th session of the General Assembly in response to General Assembly resolution 49/172. This outlines UNHCR and UNICEF initiatives on behalf of unaccompanied refugee minors.

(jj) Recognizes the importance of ensuring access to current and reliable information on involuntary displacements in the interests of promoting solutions at all levels of the refugee situation and reaffirms support for the High Commissioner's continuing effort in this regard to develop an information policy and databases capable of addressing new challenges with relevant information sources;

UNHCR Action. UNHCR is continuing to develop databases related to its sphere of competence, now collectively known as REFWORLD. Those dealing with country information are particularly relevant for both the promotion of solutions and the development of an early warning capacity. These databases were made available to the public in early 1995 over the Internet and will available in late 1995 on CD-ROM, allowing for their widest possible dissemination. The collection of information relating to actual and potential situations of displacement has been a particularly important part of the preparatory process for the regional conference on the CIS and neighbouring States planned for early 1996 (see A/AC.96/855, Information Note on the CIS Conference Process, submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee).

(kk) Notes with satisfaction UNHCR's activities with regard to the promotion and dissemination of refugee law and protection principles and calls upon the High Commissioner to continue to expand and strengthen the Office's promotion and training activities, with the active support of States and through increased cooperation with human rights organizations, academic institutions, including the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (San Remo), and other relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system;

UNHCR Action. See: Information Note on UNHCR's Activities for Refugee Law Promotion, Dissemination and Training (EC/SCP/91) presented to October 1995 meeting of SCIP.

(ll) Welcomes the High Commissioner's growing cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her continued cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights and calls on UNHCR to continue its active involvement and cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights;

UNHCR Action. The Office has continued to enhance its cooperation with the United Nations treaty bodies and other human rights mechanisms (see Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1995/52) paras 33-37, submitted to the substantive session of ECOSOC in 1995).

(mm) Recognizes the continuing usefulness of inter-sessional meetings of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection and requests the High Commissioner to convene at least one such meeting to consider current protection issues and to report on progress in the deliberations of the Committee at its forty-sixth session.

UNHCR Action. Such a meeting was held on 1 June 1995; the draft report of that meeting is contained in EC/1995/SCP/CRP.4, presented to the October 1995 meeting of SCIP for adoption.

Para. 20: Internally Displaced Persons

(k) Encourages the High Commissioner to continue the efforts of her Office to put into action its internal criteria and guidelines for UNHCR involvement in situations of internal displacement, as an important contribution towards a more concerted response by the international community to the needs of the internally displaced;

(o) Calls on UNHCR to continue its close cooperation with the Representative of the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of his mandate;

(q) Calls for the strengthening of efforts in the training and dissemination of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and for the joint promotion, by organizations and agencies concerned, of the implementation of these international standards;

(s) Encourages UNHCR to continue its efforts, under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, and in cooperation with other agencies concerned, to reinforce and structure coordination through existing interagency mechanisms, notably the Interagency Standing Committee, in order to improve the response by the international community to the plight of the internally displaced, and stresses the importance in this connection of strengthening mechanisms for the sharing of information;

UNHCR Action. Of the 27.4 million persons of concern to UNHCR at the end of 1994, some 5.4 million were internally displaced. Of these, the majority were in Europe (50 per cent), notably in the former Yugoslavia and the Caucasus, and Africa (37 percent). The double issue of UNHCR's Refugee Survey Quarterly for Spring/Summer 1995 (Vol. 14, Nos. 1 and 2) focused on internally displaced persons; it brought together the latest documents, at the time of publication, relating to the internally displaced and the international community's responses to their plight. The Division of International Protection has continued to cooperate closely with the Representative of the Secretary-General and his team in the compilation and analysis of international law standards relevant to the protection needs of IDPs, including those provisions of refugee law deemed to be applicable by analogy. UNHCR has participated actively in the work of the Inter-agency Task Force on IDPs, and used this channel to feed relevant information to the Emergency Relief Coordinator, designated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee as "reference point" within the United Nations system for the receipt and processing of such information.

Para. 21: Recommendations of the OAU/UNHCR Commemorative Symposium on Refugees and Forced Population Displacements in Africa

(e) Requests the High Commissioner, in close collaboration with the relevant States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, most particularly the Organization of African Unity, to disseminate the recommendations widely, promote as necessary their implementation, and keep the Executive Committee informed of progress in this regard.

UNHCR Action. See: Information Note on Follow-up to the OAU/UNHCR Symposium on Refugees and Forced Population Displacements in Africa (EC/1995/SCP/CRP.5) submitted to the October 1995 meeting of SCIP.

Para. 22: Recommendations of the Working Group: Refugee Women

(a) Commends the initiatives taken by the High Commissioner and, emphasizing staff accountability, encourages further efforts to ensure that the Policy on Refugee Women is actively applied in programme implementation;

(b) Urges the High Commissioner to undertake initiatives for refugee women in the areas of leadership and skills training, legal awareness, and education; and in particular in the area of reproductive health, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the refugees, in conformity with universally recognized international human rights and the UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women;

(c) Requests the High Commissioner to establish closer linkages with international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, to address issues related to women victims of armed conflict;

(g) Requests the High Commissioner to provide a report at the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee on the implementation of the Working Group's recommendations relating to refugee women, and UNHCR activities for the World Conference on Women.

UNHCR Action. An overview of progress achieved is contained in Refugee Women: the Achievements and the Challenges (EC/SC.2/77) presented to the October 1995 meeting of SCAF. Also of relevance is the Information Note on UNHCR's Guidelines on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence which was presented to the June 1995 meeting of SCIP. The Division of International Protection has recently completed a draft of a UNHCR Guide To Women's Rights Awareness Training. This will be finalized over the next four months, following further consultations, including with the field. It is hoped that a pilot project will be established in early 1996.

(d) Requests the High Commissioner to undertake a result-based evaluation of the Women Victims of Violence project in Kenya and to present the evaluation report to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters;

UNHCR Action. See: UNHCR Women Victims of Violence Project in Kenya: An Evaluation Summary (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.22) presented to the June 1995 meeting of SCAF. A detailed internal report on the evaluation of the Women Victims of Violence Project has also been completed by the Inspection and Evaluation Service.

(f) Requests the High Commissioner to report on the representation by level and distribution of female protection and field staff at a 1995 meeting of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters;

UNHCR Action. See: Report on the Deployment of Female Protection and Field Staff (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.11) presented to the June 1995 meeting of SCAF.

Para. 23: Conclusion on Refugee Children

(a) Urges UNHCR, in cooperation with Governments, other United Nations bodies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue and intensify efforts to respond to the needs of refugee children, particularly unaccompanied children;

(b) Supports efforts to enhance the implementation of the Guidelines on Refugee Children, in particular, the integration of refugee children's issues into the training of UNHCR staff as well as their implementing partners, and the creation of a Regional Support Unit for Refugee Children;

(c) Reaffirms the calls made in Decision 33 (d) (1992) (A/AC.96/804) for the basic education needs of refugee children to be better addressed, and requests the High Commissioner to continue her efforts to give higher priority to the education

of all refugee children, ensuring equal access for girls, giving due regard to the curriculum of the country of origin;

(d) Urges UNHCR to identify educational requirements in the early stages of an emergency so that prompt attention may be given to such needs;

(f) Encourages UNHCR, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, to intensify its efforts to prevent gaps in the timely provision of balanced food, which seriously affect the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, especially children;

(i) Requests that a progress report on the implementation of the UNHCR Policy on Refugee Children and of the related Guidelines be presented to its forty-sixth session.

UNHCR Action. See: Implementation of UNHCR's Policy and Guidelines on Refugee Children (EC/SC.2/78) presented to the October 1995 meeting of SCAF. Also of relevance is the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on General Assembly resolution 49/172 which outlines UNHCR and UNICEF activities on behalf of refugee unaccompanied minors. See also: Refugee Health (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.29). UNHCR and WFP are working together to ensure that the nutritional needs of children are better met and, more generally, to distribute food and other supplies directly to refugee women whenever possible.

Para. 24: General Decision on Programme, Administrative and Financial Matters

(d) Calls on UNHCR to present to an early session in 1995 of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters an update on 1995 programme needs which takes into account especially developments in refugee situations and additional initiatives which need to be taken to give effect to programmatic priorities adopted by the Executive Committee;

UNHCR Action. See: Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 1994 and 1995 and Revised 1995 General Programmes Target (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.6) presented to the January 1995 meeting of SCAF.

(e) Authorizes the High Commissioner to effect such adjustments in projects, country or area programmes, and the Headquarters and Other Programmes, as may be required by changes affecting the refugee or returnee programmes for which they were planned, using the General Programmes Reserve where necessary, and to report such adjustments to the Executive Committee at its forty-sixth session;

UNHCR Action. See: Overview of UNHCR Activities Part I: Consolidated Programmatic, Budgetary and Financial Information (A/AC.96/845, Part I), and Update on Programmes and Funding (A/AC.96/845, Part I/Add.1) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee.

(h) Requests UNHCR to undertake a lessons learnt exercise which includes the convening of an informal consultation on the response, both in Headquarters and in the field, to the Rwanda emergency; this exercise, led by UNHCR, should involve

relevant United Nations agencies and departments, Governments and implementing agencies, and should address, inter alia, the issues set out in paragraphs 38 and 86 of document A/AC.96/838;

UNHCR Action. UNHCR has actively participated in the joint evaluation sponsored by OECD/DAC while undertaking its own lessons learnt process and pursuing consultations on government service packages. See: Rwanda Emergency: Evaluation and Lessons Learnt (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.3) presented to the January 1995 meeting of SCAF; Lessons Learnt from the Rwanda Emergency (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.21/Rev.1) submitted to the June 1995 meeting of SCAF; and UNHCR's Inspection and Evaluation Activities (A/AC.96/852) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee. A comprehensive, action-oriented internal report is currently under preparation by the Inspection and Evaluation Service.

(i) Requests the Office of the High Commissioner to examine, in close collaboration with the members of the Executive Committee, the relationship between the current budget structure of General Programme budgets and Special Programme budgets, and the recognized need for improved transparency, efficiency, flexibility and accurate targeting in programme implementation as well as enhanced oversight, financial planning and effective fund raising and to report to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters at an early date;

UNHCR Action. A process of informal consultations led to the adoption at the June 1995 meeting of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters of a series of conclusions on budget structure and governance; these will be presented to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee for endorsement. See: Informal Consultations on Budgetary Questions: Conclusions and Related Documentation (EC/SC.2/75)

(j) Requests the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to improve its programme management practices, particularly with respect to the procedures governing its relationship with its implementing partners;

UNHCR Action. See: UNHCR and its Implementing Partners (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.27) submitted to October 1995 meeting of SCAF.

(k) Calls on UNHCR representatives to follow carefully the Guidelines determined for the preparation and establishment of country/area programme submissions, which should reflect consultations with host Governments and other relevant authorities as well as implementing partners, so that the High Commissioner has available to her a clear presentation of the Office's priorities for a given country/area, given the extent of refugee/returnee needs in that country/area;

UNHCR Action. UNHCR Representatives, when preparing Country Operations Plans, are urged to organize strategic planning exercises with all concerned parties to establish objectives, parameters and priorities for the given country/region and develop a comprehensive plan for implementation. In addition, UNHCR is providing enhanced support to the field through programme management training workshops and missions. These emphasize team-building, programme planning and development, as well as coordination, monitoring and control.

Para. 25: Conclusion on Refugees and the Environment

(b) Requests the High Commissioner to formulate and promote refugee-related environmental projects in collaboration with host Governments, donors, international and national non-governmental organizations, other organizations, and with the refugees themselves, so as to mitigate the adverse impact on the environment of host countries;

(c) Asks the High Commissioner to keep under review the financial implications of the interim guidelines and report on the elaboration of definitive guidelines, and on activities carried out in the field.

UNHCR Action. In December 1994, UNHCR decided to establish a short-term working group to address the issues raised. A Working Group on Environment and Refugee-Affected Area Concerns was formed. Its report was finalized on 7 July 1995. The Progress Report on Refugees and the Environment (EC/SC.2/79 and Add. 1) submitted to the October 1995 meeting of SCAF is based on the Working Group's findings.

Para. 26: Conclusion on the Continuum from Relief to Rehabilitation and Development

(a) Encourages the High Commissioner to proceed with the implementation of the Policy and Methodological Framework for quick impact projects (QIPs) and to pursue the development of assistance strategies, operational mechanisms and collaborative arrangements which will enhance the capacity of the Office to support voluntary repatriation and a sustainable reintegration of the returnees in their countries;

(b) Requests the High Commissioner to promote a smooth, mutually supportive interface between humanitarian assistance and development programmes through inter-agency cooperation, including multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental actors at the level of the country of origin;

(c) Calls on the High Commissioner to support the preparation of, and to participate actively in, the discussion on humanitarian assistance activities, particularly at the session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1995, with a view to promoting an improved complementarity of roles and responsibilities in finding comprehensive solutions to complex emergencies within the United Nations System;

UNHCR Action. UNHCR has sought to ensure that its activities, especially in complex humanitarian emergencies, are coordinated with other departments and agencies and has pursued discussions, notably with DHA and UNDP, on how institutional gaps can be bridged so as to ensure a meaningful continuum of relief and development. As part of these efforts, DHA and UNDP were invited to participate in SCAF's deliberation on assistance policies and strategies for the promotion of durable solutions, particularly sustainable reintegration, at its meeting on 16 January 1995. UNHCR also contributed actively in the preparation of the report of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to the 1995 substantive session of ECOSOC. (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.4 and EC/SC.2/72, paras. 24-28 refer)

(d) Requests the High Commissioner to report on progress on matters pertaining to assistance policies and strategies for the promotion of durable solutions to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters.

UNHCR Action. See: Assistance Policies and Strategies for the Promotion of Durable Solutions: Achieving Sustainable Reintegration (EC/SC.2/1995/CRP.4) presented to January 1995 SCAF. Operational strategies for reintegration assistance and inter-agency cooperation to link UNHCR's activities closer to sustainable development policies and programmes have been established for a number of countries, notably Afghanistan, Eritrea, Guatemala, Mozambique and Myanmar. Field-based inter-agency cooperation has been pursued particularly with UNDP and UNICEF. An inter-agency framework for a smooth phasing-out of UNHCR's reintegration activities in Mozambique has been launched.

A joint UNHCR/UNDP review of their cooperation in Central America during the CIREFCA process has been completed and is used in the formulation of continued collaborative ventures of a complementary nature. UNHCR has participated in the inter-agency discussions on post-conflict reconstruction and the translation into practice of a closer linkage between humanitarian, rehabilitation and development activities and approaches.

Para. 27: Conclusion on UNHCR's Career Management System

(b) Urges UNHCR to integrate the project with other key UNHCR initiatives to improve program delivery and to take steps to involve Executive Committee members together with staff and their representatives and members of UNHCR management;

(c) Urges the High Commissioner to ensure continuation of strong support and involvement of senior management and direct dialogue between all participants;

(d) Requests the High Commissioner to keep the Executive Committee members fully informed of project progress through a presentation to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters early in 1995, and by continuing to encourage members to put forth their ideas and make available the experience gained by their national institutions in implementing similar projects.

UNHCR Action. See: UNHCR's Career Management System Project (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.8) presented to June SCAF; Progress Report on UNHCR's Career Management System (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.26) submitted to the October SCAF.

Para. 29: Conclusion on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa

(c) Calls upon the High Commissioner, in concert with States, other parties, the United Nations system, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, to address the root causes of displacements in order to attain durable solutions for the refugee problem and to avert refugee outflows through early warning mechanisms and action in a timely manner through bilateral and multilateral preventive diplomacy; welcomes in this respect the role played by OAU's mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution;

UNHCR Action. For a summary of UNHCR activities in Africa, notably efforts towards durable solutions, see Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part II, Chapter 1 (Africa) (A/AC.96/845/Part II) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee. Increased collaboration with the Organization of African Unity is briefly outlined in the Information Note on Follow-up to the Recommendations of the OAU/UNHCR Symposium on Refugees and Forced Population Displacements in Africa (EC/1995/SCP/CRP.5).

(d) Requests UNHCR in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity to explore the feasibility of convening regional and sub-regional conferences to address the growing problems of African refugees and develop comprehensive plans of action for humanitarian assistance and appropriate durable solutions;

UNHCR Action. A joint UNHCR-OAU Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region was held in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 12 through 17 February 1995. The Plan of Action adopted by the Conference has been developed by UNHCR into a concrete "workplan" to facilitate voluntary repatriation as well as to support the voluntary and safe return home of internally displaced persons.

(g) Welcomes the prospects for voluntary repatriation and durable solutions across the continent and expresses appreciation to the High Commissioner and other parties for their ongoing successful efforts to promote and facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of Mozambican refugees;

(h) Urges the High Commissioner to continue these exemplary initiatives, as appropriate;

UNHCR Action. For a summary of UNHCR's solution-oriented activities in Africa, see Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part II, Chapter 1 (Africa) (A/AC.96/845/Part II) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee and A/AC.96/846/Part I/28, Regional Special Programmes, which provides additional details of major repatriation programmes.

(q) Calls upon the High Commissioner to continue to provide assistance in a timely and effective manner for Burundi returnees and Rwandese refugees in Burundi in order to avoid the creation of additional problems to an already fragile situation;

UNHCR Action. An account of UNHCR activities in Burundi is given in A/AC.96/846/Part I/3 (Burundi) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee.

(t) In this regard expresses concern over the long stay of refugees in certain African countries and calls upon the High Commissioner to intensify efforts to find durable solutions for these populations;

UNHCR Action. For a summary of UNHCR's solution-oriented activities in Africa, see Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part II, Chapter 1 (Africa) (A.AC.96/845/Part II) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee and A/AC.96/846/Part I/28, Regional Special Programmes, which provides additional details of major repatriation programmes.

(u) Requests the High Commissioner to review her General Programmes in Africa, taking into account the increasing requirements in that region.

UNHCR Action. See: Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 1994 and 1995 and Revised 1995 General Programmes Target (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.6, para. 9) presented to the January 1995 meeting of SCAF.

Para. 30: Conclusion on the International Conference on Central American Refugees

(g) Urges UNHCR to continue the broad dissemination, in Latin America and elsewhere, where appropriate, of the norms and principles of international protection implemented within the framework of CIREFCA, as well as the humanitarian practices deriving from the implementation of the CIREFCA Plan of Action in the field of international protection;

UNHCR Action. An international colloquium was held in San José in December 1994 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration. The symposium, which was organized by UNHCR and the Interamerican Institute of Human Rights under the auspices of the Government of Costa Rica, adopted the San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons. This document addresses the key issue of harmonizing legal criteria and procedures to consolidate the durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration in Central America, Mexico and Belize and continuing the voluntary repatriation of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico. In addition to the evaluations conducted to draw lessons from the CIREFCA process, internally by UNHCR and externally by interested parties, UNHCR and UNDP completed, in May 1995, a joint evaluation of the opportunity and challenge for inter-agency cooperation in CIREFCA. The report is being widely shared and innovative features being studied for possible replication elsewhere.

Para. 31: Conclusion on the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees

(b) Urges all Parties concerned to continue to reinforce efforts for the return and reintegration of Lao refugees and asylum-seekers from Thailand and neighbouring countries as well as international development agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase the capacity of the LPDR to absorb a higher number of returnees;

(d) Calls for the convening of a formal meeting of the Steering Committee of the CPA in early 1995, preceded by a preparatory meeting, to complement the progress made so far by ensuring that remaining issues should be addressed, and to examine other modalities acceptable under international practices, for the return of screened-out Vietnamese from camps in the region as may be needed and as foreseen under the CPA;

UNHCR Action. See: A/AC/96/846/Part II/10 (Regional Special Programmes) and A/AC.96/845/Part II, paras 46-49) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee. The sixth Steering Committee of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees was held on 16 March 1995. The Eighth Tripartite Meeting (LPDR - Thailand - UNHCR) will take place in the Lao People's Democratic Republic towards the end of 1995. Over 60 villages which are willing to absorb small groups of returnees have been identified. Thanks to these efforts, the capacity of the Lao People's Democratic Republic should now be sufficient to absorb all remaining refugees and asylum-seekers still in Thailand.

Para. 32: Conclusion on Repatriation to Afghanistan

(c) Requests the High Commissioner to review the general programme for the care and maintenance of the Afghan refugees taking into account increasing requirements of the world's largest caseload of refugees;

UNHCR Action. See, Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 1994 and 1995 and Revised 1995 General Programmes Target (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.6) submitted to the January meeting of SCAF, which contained an increase in the General Programmes allocation for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(d) Invites the High Commissioner, in support of the efforts of the United Nations' Special Mission for Afghanistan and other humanitarian and development agencies, to intensify the activities of her Office in the safe areas of Afghanistan so as to create conditions conducive for the return of refugees and displaced persons to their places of origin.

UNHCR Action. UNHCR, as of 1995, is pursuing a policy of intensifying activities in the safe areas within Afghanistan to create conditions conducive to return to places of origin of the refugees and displaced persons. This involves the implementation of quick impact projects (QIPs) in areas of return, and the strengthening of UNHCR's presence in the country. See: A/AC.96/846/Part V/13, submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee.

Para. 34: Conclusion on the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States

(b) Welcomes in this regard the initiative launched by the High Commissioner to engage in a process with Governments and all relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and bilateral agencies to promote and develop a concerted and comprehensive strategy to address problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and forced migrants in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States;

(c) Supports the High Commissioner's consultations in that process which could lead to a regional conference under UNHCR auspices which would bring together all countries of the region, other countries with an interest in the matter, as well as bilateral agencies and international organizations, in particular, the International Organization for Migration.

UNHCR Action. See: Information Note on the CIS Conference Process (A/AC.96/855) submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee.

Para. 35: Conclusion on PARinAC

(d) Encourages NGOs, Governments and UNHCR to identify areas of the Plan of Action where they can cooperate to implement particular recommendations;

(e) Requests the High Commissioner to report to the Executive Committee at its forty-sixth session on the follow-up to the PARinAc process and to keep the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection and the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters, as appropriate, informed about progress made.

UNHCR Action. See: Report on PARinAC (EC/1995/SC.2/CRP.20) presented to the June 1995 meeting of SCAF.